

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

**Parish Priest: Fr Joe McLoughlin**

Email: [fr.joseph.mcloughlin@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.joseph.mcloughlin@rcaob.org.uk)

Presbytery

2 South View Avenue,

Caversham, READING RG4 5AB

Telephone: 0118 947 1787

Office email: [ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk)

Parish Secretary: Miss Lis Leddy

Website: [www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk)

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Ms Julia Feeney

Safeguarding Representative Contact: [sg.ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk)

But I tell you  
Love your  
enemies  
and PRAY for THOSE  
WHO  
persecute  
YOU  
-Matthew 5:44-

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A –**

**18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Whenever anyone obeys what Christ has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

1Jn 2:5

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Fr Joe will be in the parish so there will be Mass at 9.15am [with school coming] and a sung Mass in the evening at 7.30pm.

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## LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will begin on Fridays Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 12noon, followed by a soup lunch in the Cenacle.

Hopefully a different volunteer could provide soup and bread each Friday. If you would like to help, sign up on the list at the back of church.

It would help the cooks to know how many people intend to come to Stations each Friday. If you think you might come please put your name on the list at the back of church.

**RIP** Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Michael[Tony] Deasy** - funeral here Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March @ 10am and

**Sheila Smith** - funeral details to be arranged.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

## TUESDAY TEA & COFFEE

Mass is in the evening on Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, so coffee will be at 9.30am. Come and have a chat and a pancake!

## PARISH INCOME BANKED

**22&29/01/23**

C'tless: £258.00

C'less - candles:£7.00

Loose plate£1031.95

Candles £123.74

Our Lady's Lamp  
£20.00

Standing

Orders:£2361.32

**5/02/23**

C'less: £232.00

C'less - candles:£12

Loose plate£1031.95

Candles£0.00

Our Lady's Lamp  
£10.00

Standing

Orders:£2361.32

## WORLD YOUTH DAY TOMBOLA

The World Youth Day team are working hard to raise funds. Their next event will be a tombola during tea/coffee after Mass on **Sunday 19th February**. Come & buy a ticket to help them on their way.

## CONFIRMATION PREPARATION FOR THOSE NOT AT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The first meeting is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 4.30pm in the Cenacle. If you are interested in preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation please contact the office by email [ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk] or phone [0118 9471787].

## WALK WITH ME

The Lenten journey of prayer books are available this weekend. If you'd like to make a donation towards the cost you can either put coins in the basket or use your card on the machine.

Please help yourself to the calendars which provide suggestions for children's activities during Lent.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22<sup>nd</sup> February Ash Wednesday

Fridays during Lent - stations and soup lunch

3<sup>rd</sup> March CAFOD Family Fast Day

18<sup>th</sup> March Big CAFOD Walk

5<sup>th</sup> April Big Church clean for Easter

15<sup>th</sup> April Cotham Ensemble



## OUR LADY'S LAMP

**This week's lamp is lit for:**

Arthur & Sara Taylor RIP

Please keep them in your prayers.

The diocesan Privacy Policy is available at

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

or by request from the parish office.

Our Lady & St Anne Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham,  
Charity No. 234216

## Background on the Sunday Gospel

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

**Mass Intentions**  
**Seventh Week in Ordinary Time**

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Year A**

Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup> February	5.30pm	Chris Gaughan RIP
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am	People of the parish
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup> February	No Mass	
<i>Monday of week seven in Ordinary Time</i>			
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup> February	7.30pm	Janet Vallevand RIP
<i>Memorial of St Peter Damian, Bishop, doctor of the Church</i>			
Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	9.15am	Larry & Jane McGrath RIP
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>		7.30pm	John & Mary Reilly RIP
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup> February	9.15am	T'giving Our Lady & St Anne
<i>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</i>			
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> February	9.15am	Marie Thérèse Martin [Mary]
<i>Friday after Ash Wednesday</i>		12.00noon	<i>Lenten Stations of the Cross</i>

**First Sunday of Lent**

**Year A**

Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup> February	5.30pm	People of the parish
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am	Zygmunt Powiecki RIP

Rosary prayed before Saturday evening Mass.  
Everybody welcome.